COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Air Force Issues Regulation On New Reenlistment Bonus

Air Force officials have released a list of 111 Air Force Specialty Codes (AFSCs) authorized Variable Reenlistment Bonus (VRB) payments beginning Jan. 1. This includes all AFSCs presently authorized proficiency pay, plus a few additional ones.

Funds have been programmed for more than 5,000 first-term Air Force reenlistees through the first half of FY67. These quotas may be filled by those reenlisting January-June 1966.

Additionally, a quota for more than 2,000 has been set up for first-half FY67 for those reenlisting July-December 1966. More will be added for this period at a later date.

Air Force will pay the VRB according to a variable rate from one through four. This means those with the most critical AFSCs are designated Variable Four, and will receive four times the regular reenlistment bonus, plus the regular bonus. A Variable Two will receive two times the regular bonus, plus the regular bonus.

Payments will be spread out during the four-year reenlistment, payable in four installments. This means one-fourth VRB will be paid on reenlistment, with a fourth paid each year thereafter.

Regular reenlistment bonuses will be paid in a lump sum on reenlistment as in the past.

Three Gemini Astronauts Get Promotion Approval

President Johnson has approved promotions for three of the four astronauts who completed the successful missions of Gemini 6 and Gemini 7.

The President also sent individual letters of praise to the astronauts who will receive the NASA Medal of Exceptional Service, or a cluster.

Both Gemini 7 astronauts, Commander John A. Lovell Jr., USN, and Lieutenant Colonel Frank Borman, USAF, will be promoted to the next higher grade. Promotion to lieutenant colonel was also authorized for Gemini 6 astronaut, Major Thomas P. Stafford, USAF. Captain Walter N. Schirra, USN, command pilot of Gemini 6, was promoted after an earlier space flight.

FIRE POWER!—Lt. Gen Thomas S. Moorman, USAF Academy Superintendent, sees the result of a single round fired from the M-16 rifle into a large can held by TSgt. Eugene M. Reinartz. The Academy recently acquired 90 of the rifles for cadet familiarization firing. The weapon is currently being used by U.S. forces in Vietnam.

8 Armed Forces TV Stations To Be Installed in Vietnam

The U.S. Government and the Government of the Republic of Vietnam have concluded an agreement which will allow the U.S. Department of Defense to install eight armed forces television stations to provide information, education and entertainment to U.S. military installations near Saigon, Can Tho, Da Nang, Na Trang, Qui Nhon, Pleiku, Ban Me Thout and Quang Ngai. Concurrently the RVN Government is establishing its own television system for telecasting to the Vietnamese people. The U.S. Government will provide initial technical assistance to help expedite the development of television in Vietnam.

The first armed forces telecast will begin in Saigon soon using an airborne television station until a ground television station can be completed. The armed forces television stations for the seven other areas will be in mobile vans. All armed forces television stations are expected to be operational during 1967.

Washington Memos

TWO MAJOR MILITARY airlift tests will be conducted by U.S. Air Force during joint exercise "Polar Sweep," January and February in Alaska. One test involves a new C-114 jet transport, the other will check new procedures for scheduling and controlling airlift forces. Polar Sweep will be the first military exercise anywhere involving the C-141 Starlifter.

AIR FORCE COMMUNICATIONS Service, Scott AFB, Ill., was cited for achieving the highest validation rate in USAF for cost reduction program items submitted in FY65. Rate was .99 percent, validating savings of $14,997,100 plus additional $4,005,200 saved on "host" installations where the command operates.

ONLY SERVICE ACADEMY scholar to be selected for Rhodes Scholarship is Cadet Wesley K. Clark, first classman (senior) at USMA, West Point. In all, 32 outstanding students have been selected for the honor. Cadet Clark will begin his studies at Oxford in 1966.

VIGOROUS COMMAND SUPPORT is essential to overcome critical Army warrant officer shortages in two marine fields. Commanders are urged to identify and encourage qualified personnel to apply immediately for appointment as Master or Mate (MOS 561A) or Marine Engineering Technician (MOS 562A).

AN AIRMOBILE OPERATING room accomodating 14 people and supporting four simultaneous surgical operations is being constructed by the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in RVN. The 4,000 pound aluminum alloy pod can be sling-loaded beneath a CH-54 "Flying Crane" and will care for on-the-scene battlefield casualties requiring immediate surgery.

AN AMERICAN FLAG which flew over U.S. Capitol was presented to Air Force Rocket Propulsion Laboratory, Edwards AFB, Calif., by U.S. Representative Edward Reinecks (R.-Calif.). Air Force regulations restrict a base to flying only one flag but Edwards was granted permission to fly two flags that day.

ARMY'S 1ST LOGISTICAL Command has been authorized 20 civilian maintenance specialists to provide technical assistance to major subordinate units in Saigon, Nha Trang, Qui Nhon and Cam Ranh Bay, RVN. They are specialists in marine and amphibious equipment, construction equipment, generators, air conditioners, refrigeration and water purification.

NATIONAL HEALTH AGENCIES overseas campaign will be held from Jan. 15 to Feb. 15. Annual fund raising for National Health Agencies and Federal Service Joint Crusade to be conducted concurrently in U.S., Panama Canal Zone and Commonwealth of Puerto Rico during six week period between Jan. 1 and April 30.

SURGEON GENERALS OF each service are represented on a recently created Interagency Committee on Laboratory Medicine. The committee provides cooperation and concerted action among Federal agencies having major medical programs.

2ND ARMORED DIVISION, Ft. Hood, Tex., won Department of the Army Safety Award of Merit for FY65. 2nd AD FY65 military injury rate, 4.49, dropped nearly 300 percent from FY64 rate, 14.88. Award goes to command showing greatest improvement in safety statistics over the preceding fiscal year.

THREE SUPPORT AREAS of Army's 1st Logistical Command at Nha Trang, Qui Nhon and Vung Tau, RVN, have been redesignated U.S. Army Support Commands (Provisional). Change also involves an expansion of missions to include increased logistical services to U.S. personnel in the II, III and IV Corps areas of Vietnam.

ARMY UNVEILED $2 million facility which simulates in-flight performance of electronic systems used by Army tactical aircraft, at Ft. Monmouth, N.J. The system, Tactical Avionics System Simulator (TASS), was introduced by Assistant Army Secretary Willis M. Hawkins. TASS will evaluate proposed avionics equipment during design stages.

AIR FORCE BALLISTICS Systems Division has announced completion of a 3,375-square-mile aerial survey of north central Montana, site of a new Minuteman intercontinental ballistics missile installation. Ballistics Systems will supervise installation of 350 miles of underground communication cable linking 50 Minuteman II missiles and five command posts.

MR. JEROME LEDERER, Director of the Flight Safety Foundation and the Guggenheim Aviation Safety Center at Cornell University has been awarded the Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy. He was Director of the War Training Institute which trained more than 10,000 airmen for the Air Transport Command during WWII.

NEW GAS MASK permits wearer to drink and administer artificial respiration in a toxic chemical environment. Accessories permit wearer to drink from canteen through a tube and administer a variation of mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

ARMY SURGEON GENERAL'S Office of the Comptroller has published a new two-part study, "A Decade of Change in U.S. Hospitals, 1953-1963," summarizing changes in utilization, staffing and costs in U.S. hospitals during 10-year period. Limited number of free copies are available to federal agencies from Comptroller, Office of The Surgeon General, DA, Washington, D.C. 20315.

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8 USO Shows Top Holiday Slate

Eight celebrity USO shows are overseas during the holidays this year for DOD. Although several of the units will perform in RVN and Dominican Republic, servicemen elsewhere in the Pacific and Europe will receive a good share of holiday entertainment.

Leading the show-bill, Bob Hope and his troupe go to Vietnam. Others going to RVN are actor Hugh O'Brian, The Brothers Four and Eddie Fisher.

Roy Acuff and his Smokey Mountain Boys and a pop singing group, The Wellingtons, are on tour in the Pacific. Another country music group, The Johnny Cash Show, is visiting the Dominican Republic. The singing group, Ronnie and the Daytonas, is touring Europe.

700 AF F-100s Revamped For Modern Combat Use

A three year, $150 million project has revamped Tactical Air Command's fleet of F-100 Supersabres to meet modern combat requirements. Approximately 700 Supersabres underwent extensive work including almost complete rewiring to extend their combat life.

The F-100s, on Air Force flight lines since 1954, were literally torn apart and rebuilt.

COMSEVENFLT — VAdm. John Hyland, 53, relieved RAdm. Joseph W. Williams Jr., 54, as Commander Seventh Fleet, Dec. 13, in a full dress ceremony aboard the flagship cruiser USS Oklahoma City (CLG-5) in the South China Sea.

AUTODIN Being Expanded

Cutover phase of a program to expand the Automatic Digital Network (AUTODIN) into total common user message communication network of the Defense Department is now underway. Implementation of Continental U.S. AUTODIN has been assigned to Air Force Communications Service while U.S. Army Strategic Communications Command has responsibility for overseas implementation. Cutover is expected to continue for at least nine months.

East Coast MSTS Tonnage Up in FY66

Nearly 3.5 million measurement tons of dry cargo and 40,000 passengers were sealifted from and to U.S. East Coast and Gulf ports from July 1 to Oct. 31, 1965, according to MSTS.

Figures for the four-month FY66 period represent a ¾ million measurement ton increase in dry cargo for the same period last year, and a reduction in sealifted personnel of more than 50 percent.

Of the total cargo figure, 3,085,853 measurement tons were shipped outbound while the remaining were inbound.

Total passenger figure, including troops, other DOD personnel and their dependents, covers 24,864 sailing outbound and 15,321 inbound.

Infra-Red, Laser Radar System Being Developed

A prototype, infra-red aimed, laser radar system is being developed for the Army by the Sperry Rand Corp. It is a combination of an infra-red target tracker and a laser beam which has exhibited high precision in early tests.

Target azimuth and elevation were measured to within a sixth of a degree and range estimation was accurate within inches at a distance of seven miles. The laser-radar is planned for use in monitoring aircraft flights, or on test ranges for tracking missiles.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

RAdm. Alexander C. Husband, USN, has relieved **RAdm. Peter Corradi** as Chief of Bureau of Yards and Docks and Chief of the Navy Civil Engineer Corps. Adm. Corradi has retired. **Maj. Gen. John W. White, USAF,** Commander. AF Special Weapons Center, Kirtland AFB, N.M., to be relieved by **Col. Ralph S. Garman** upon retirement in early 1966. **RAdm. Ira F. Haddock, USN,** to succeed **Brig. Gen. Robert H. Herman, USAF,** as Commander, Defense Construction Supply Center, Columbus, Ohio. General Herman is retiring. **RAdm. David G. Clutterback, CB, Royal Navy,** will relieve **VAdm. Sir William Beloe, Royal Navy,** in rank of Vice Admiral as Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic in April. **Brig. Gen. Livingston N. Taylor, USA,** to Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, North American Defense Command.

CONTRACT AWARDS

Tursini and Co., Vineland, N.J.: $1,044,000 fixed-price contract for 75,000 men's wool serge coats. **(DSA)**

American Oil Co., Chicago: $2,265,816 fixed-price contract for 500,000 barrells of 98 and 86/95 octane gasoline. **(DSA)**

FMC Corp., Charleston, W. Va.: $4,302,241 fixed-price contract for rubber track shoe assemblies for M113 vehicles. **(Army)**

Texas Instruments, Inc., Dallas, Tex.: $2,189,306 fixed-price contract for classified submarine equipment. **(Navy)**

Sylvania Electric Products, Inc., Waltham, Mass.: $2,400,000 initial increment to a $14,000,000 contract for work on ground electronics system for Minuteman Wing VI. **(Air Force)**

Marine Corps Cuts Some Extensions

Christmas with their families was more than a dream for thousands of U.S. Marines whose enlistments had been involuntarily extended last August. All Marines whose involuntary extended enlistments would normally expire Dec. 20 and Jan. 2 were released in time to reach home for the holidays.

In a message to those men and women, Gen. Wallace M. Greene Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, extended his sincere appreciation for the additional service they rendered their Corps and country and for the personal sacrifice they were called upon the make.

Marine Corps headquarters said it is planned that other Marines affected by the involuntary extension will be released as their four-month obligations end.

Civic Action Activities in Vietnam Called 'Inspiring' by Army Assistant

Civic action activities in Vietnam have been described as "heart-warming and inspiring" by Thaddeus G. Holt Jr., Special Assistant to Secretary of the Army Stanley J. Resor.

Speaking before U.S. and allied officers attending a six-week civic course at the Ft. Gordon, Ga., Civil Affairs School, Mr. Holt advised the students, "It is easy to think sometimes that there is more glory to be found on the battlefield than on the village common, but the cause of liberty may often be more advanced in the long run by digging a well for a hundred men than by digging the graves of a thousand.

"Military civic action itself—the application of skills of war to works of peace—is nothing new," he said. "It is rather one of the practical expressions of the civic responsibility of military men."

Mr. Holt noted that attendance of U.S. Army and Marine Corps officers in the course "evidenced the commitment of the U.S. Government to civic actions and the determinations of our armed forces to do their part in advancing it."

USAF Comm. Improved in RVN, Japan

Air Force communications in Japan and Republic of Vietnam have been improved through efforts of the Ground Electronics Engineering and Installation Agency (GEEIA).

A new communications center at 2nd Air Division headquarters, Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN, was completely installed in less than a month. At Wakkani AB, Japan, a Pacific GEEIA team has nearly completed a new telephone system which consists of converting a manual phone system into a 500-line automatic dial system.

HONORED FLYER — Maj. Harvey E. Stewart, USA aviator (left), received the Distinguished Service Cross for actions at Dong Xoai, Vietnam, from Gen. John K. Waters, Commander in Chief, U.S. Army, Pacific, in Los Angeles where the two were honored guests at the 62nd Annual Wright Brothers Memorial Dinner. Maj. Stewart also received the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce 1965 Kitty Hawk Memorial Award for Military Aviation. In Vietnam he flew more than 700 helicopter missions and is presently serving with the Artillery Aviation Command at Ft. Sill, Okla.

AF Sentry Dog Supply Falling Behind Demand

Supply of Air Force sentry dogs is falling behind the demand.

The 90 sentry dog teams now in Vietnam have been so effective in protecting American lives and preventing sabotage the recruiting quota has been doubled —from 1,000-dog quota set in September to 2,000.

Only German shepherds are used. To be acceptable as sentry dogs, they must be either male or spayed female; be 12-36 months old; measure at least 23 inches high at shoulder and weigh at least 60 pounds.

Anyone wishing to donate or sell German shepherd dogs should write the USAF Animal Procurement Office, Lackland AFB, Tex.

Second XB-70 Nears 2,000 mph Mark

Second and newest Air Force XB-70 research plane reached top speed of 1,920 mph. at an altitude of 70,000 feet Dec. 11. The first XB-70's top speed was 2,000 mph. The latest 250-ton XB-70 took off weighing approximately 530,000 pounds, laden with fuel, the heaviest ever airborne.